

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date April 7, 2004

Nancy L. Swanson
Nancy L. Swanson

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Present Application :

Applicant : D. Chien and P. Arcangel
Title : Hepatitis C Viral Antigen Immunoassay Detection Systems
Docket No. : PP-01445.007
Date : April 7, 2004

Prior Application :

Examiner : Mary Mosher
Art Unit : 1648
Application No. : USSN 10/048,191

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please enter the following claim amendments before examining the continuation patent application referenced above.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.